

**Which Church Is My Favorite?**

I have recently realized something about which of the three churches I actually prefer above the others. (Make sure you read the whole description—I think you'll be pleased.)

When I walk into St. Mary's Church, I immediately think to myself, "*This is my favorite of the three churches.*" With the beautiful stained-glass windows and the soaring gothic arches, this space truly *feels* like a church. I am delighted by the exceptional art deco, solid stone altar. The space is intimate and cozy. This church has to be my favorite.

When I walk into Queen of All Saints Church, I immediately think, "*This is my favorite of the three churches.*" I am drawn to the striking wood ceiling and the clean lines of its mid-century modern design. I love the serene statues of Mary and Joseph and feel inspired by the crucifix that graces the sanctuary. The entire church radiates simple elegance—from the stained-glass windows to the dramatic brick reredos, I see the mystery of the Liturgy and salvation expressed in brick and mortar. And so, it has to be my favorite.

When I walk into Notre Dame Church, I again think, "*This is my favorite of the three churches.*" With its enormous windows that flood the space with multicolored light, the grandeur of its neo-classical American-colonial architecture, and the breathtaking mosaic of Our Lady, this church gives me a sense of the majesty of our faith. By combining the ancient rite of the Roman liturgy with American architecture, Notre Dame proclaims with a strong voice, "*I am Catholic and American!*" And therefore, I can't help but say this has to be my favorite.

I share this with sincerity. This morning in prayer, as I wondered which of the churches I consider most beautiful, it dawned on me: the most beautiful church is always the one where I am praying at that moment. Over the past several months, when asked which church is my favorite, I have given different answers each time. Now I see why—because I love each of these churches, but for different reasons. As pastor, I have fallen in love with every one of them. I mention this because I hope, in time, the same realization may come to you.

For several months now, Queen of All Saints has been closed for Sunday worship, and parishioners have experienced a kind of diaspora to the other churches in Michigan City. I must admit, I am eager to return to Sunday worship at Queen of All Saints, and I know many parishioners feel the same. This is not because I do not love St. Mary's or Notre Dame, but simply because I miss the unique experience of Queen of All Saints. The closure has helped me better understand why people feel such deep attachment to their own parish church.

Yet, as we move forward with our Pastoral Plan to unite the churches of Michigan City into one parish, we must place our first priority on the Eucharistic mystery of Christ, not on a particular worship site. Beginning in Lent 2026, we will enter a new Sunday Mass schedule. While the times will remain mostly the same, you may find yourself choosing between a location you prefer and a time you prefer. When that moment comes, I hope we all remember that what matters most is not *where* we worship, but the *gift* of the Eucharist itself.

I hope you can discover the unique beauty present in each of our three worship sites. You may always feel a special bond with one church as your "home," but please also remember: Jesus is fully present in the Eucharist, no matter the location. The miracle of the Eucharist is celebrated in each of our churches. It would sadden me greatly if anyone were to avoid Mass simply because it was not in their preferred building.

When the People of God gather for the holy liturgy, we are one Church. We are not divided by parochial lines. After all, there is only one Church—the Body of Christ. This truth will become even clearer when we begin our new Sunday Mass schedule. Everyone will have an opportunity to worship at a preferred *time*, but perhaps not always at a preferred *place*.

So, my dear friends in Christ, I invite you to open your hearts to the communion that our three churches share in the one Christ. I believe that in very short order we will find ourselves more united than ever, and together we will recognize the beautiful heritage of each community as we worship as one in the Spirit of Christ.

Peace,  
Fr. David Kime